Mr. President: Read only sentence relevant.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* "I was told by the clerk put on duty on Sunday 14th Edavam 1120 that Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan brought these applications on 14th Edavam 1120. As the applications were not forwarded through the head of the office the clerk was not able to identify the signature. He told Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan that he would send the certificates by Anchal to the address given in the applications".

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether that communication contains any reference of the candidate, that is my poor self, having gone to the office at 8 O'clock in morning and being told that there are no forms no organisation here and hence I am helpless ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Nothing to show that.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* May I know whether there is a conspiracy between the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri and the Diwan Peishkar to stagnate this House with this particular question ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwn Piushkar):* I am not a party to any conspiracy.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* What is the enquiry, Sir, because I did not hear him well.

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Member may put another supplementary question if he wishes to do so.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know what the enquiry was, because my name was also mentioned ?

Mr. President : Order, order. The Hon'ble Member will kindly proceed if he wishes to put further supplementary questions.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* It seems to be useless and therefore I stop, Sir.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : വോട്ടർമാരുടെ അപേക്ഷകൾ അവർതന്നെ നേരിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നില്ലേ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice as to whether it should be presented in person or not.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : സ്ഥാനാർത്ഥികൾ അല്ല അവരിൽനിന്നു വാങ്ങിക്കൊണ്ടുവന്ന രീതിക എന്നു വരുമ്പോൾ അത് ഇൻഫ്ളുവൻസ് ചെയ്യുകയല്ലേ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* These are all inferences drawn and not questions put to elicit facts, and so I can give no answer.

51. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) have not the ballot boxes used for the last general elections been painted very faintly;

(*b*) have not the Government heard complaints that it had been difficult to properly know the colour of the ballot boxes;

(*c*) was there not want of sufficient light in the booths?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):*

(*a*) No.

(*b*) There was a report in the "Cochin Express" dated 1st June 1945.

(*c*) No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether any light Hurricane lanterns or table lamps, were supplied to be used in the polling booths ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I want notice. I did not supply any. Undoubtedly if there was any necessity the local officers would have provided them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Was any supply made to any election officer of any sort of lights to be used at the polling booths.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I am unable to give any answer. I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Did the Chief Election Officer supply any booth or all the booths with any lights ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If by the words "Chief Election Officer" the Hon'ble Member means "the Diwan Peishkar" the answer is that he did not supply, I have given the answer.

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മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : ഈ സംഗതികൾ താസിൽദാരാണോ അറേൻജ് ചെയ്യുന്നത്?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* These detatils are to be arranged by the Tahsildars. I may say for the information of this Hon'ble House that in certain places where I went I noticed when it was rather late that some little light was found wanting, and I said that some re-arrangement was necessary and I did make it. I told the officers that if necessary and if they found the place dark on account of the clouds. they may hire a lamp, not hurricane lanterns only but even hanging lamp called No. 14. Wherenever necessary arrangements must have been made. I visited a place called Vellarakad. There the polling booth was in a school with thatched roofing. I said even one or two cadjan leaves may be lifted up so that they may get more light. This much I did. Wherever I found there was difficulty, I did everything that was necessary?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkanaheri):* May I know whether the painting was finished only on the mid-night of Friday?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* A large number were painted before that. The rest were painted after that. The exact number that was required was known only on Saturday and the full number was finished after that. We knew some will be necessary of different colours and therefore a large majority was painted before.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know whether the Hon'ble Member is sure that the paint applied dried up before being used?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It must have. You could see it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I have seen it.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I also have seen it. They were ready for despatch from the Tramway Workshop at Chalakkudi seven days before that. I had myself been to that place and was there till the last lorry left the place with the boxes. I was there on the night of Monday at about 10-30 p.m. when painting was finished, and I arranged to have them despatched, and left for Trichur. They were given 7 days for drying.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ വടക്കാഞ്ചേരി സാമാന്യനിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ പെട്ടികൾ ഏതെല്ലാം കളറുകളിലുണ്ടായിരുന്നു?

Mr. A: Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Only green and yellow.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ഐ. വേലായുധൻ എല്ലാ പെട്ടികളും ഒരേ വലുപ്പത്തിലുള്ളവയായിരുന്നുവോ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There are small size boxes and big size boxes.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ഐ. വേലായുധൻ : ഇങ്ങിനെ പെട്ടികൾ വലുതും ചെറുതുമായാൽ അതുകൊണ്ടു കാൻറിഡേറ്റിനു് ഉപദ്രവമാണു നേരിട്ടുന്നതെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* They were arranged in such a way that where small boxes would suffice, only small boxes were given, *e. g.*, in Jenmy Constituency and some other Special Constituencies, only small boxes were necessary. We had got the number of voters to poll at each polling station and so we knew before-hand that number.

Mr. President: I would ask the Hon'ble Member to make his reply as short as possible.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Where small boxes would suffice, we gave small boxes and where big boxes were necessary, we gave big boxes.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ഐ. വേലായുധൻ : ഇപ്രകാരം വലുതും ചെറുതുമായ പെട്ടികൾ വെച്ചാൽ ചെറിയ പെട്ടിയിൽ വോട്ടു ചെയ്യുന്നവർ വളരെ ക്ഷുക്കമായിട്ടു ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കയുള്ളുവെന്നു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്നറിയാമോ ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In some polling stations, the number was small and so small boxes were given.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. ഐ. വേലായുധൻ : തോൽക്കുന്ന പല കാൻറിഡേറ്റ്സിനും ചെറിയ പെട്ടിവെച്ചാൽ മതിയെന്നാണോ പറയുന്നതു് ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Absolutely not. As I said, it depended on the number of voters.

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Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Ernakulam)*: The suggestion is some candidates were given big boxes and their opponents small boxes. Was that done?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that occasionally ballot papers put inside the boxes got stuck up in the hole?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: This is the first time that I hear about it. Nothing of that sort has ever come to my notice.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know whether it will be possible to call for a report from the Election Officers with regard to the complaints about the unsatisfactory condition of the painting of the boxes?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: The Returning Officers make a report. Every Returning Officer has to make a report and he has noted everything that was necessary to be noted.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu)*: May I know whether they have stated that there have been complaints regarding this matter?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: No.

52. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what are the dimensions of the Village Office at Vellarakad in the Talapalli Taluk;

(*b*) how many polling booths were arranged in this office;

(*c*) what are the number of people that was in this office as polling officers, their assistants and the agents of the respective candidates;

(*d*) what is the total number of voters that have to vote at this booth;

(*e*) what is the actual number that voted at this booth?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*:

(*a*) 38 feet length, 18½ feet breadth with a portico in front 11 feet long and 10 feet wide. [The Village Office referred to is Chiramangad and not Vellarakad.]

(*b*) 2 booths with 7 compartments.

(*c*) 2 polling officers.
2 clerks.
7 watchmen.
5 agents.
1 Village Parvathiam.

(*d*) General	.. ..	549
Ezhuvas	.. ..	88
Jenmies	.. ..	4
Planters	.. ..	2
		643
(*e*) General	.. ..	285
Ezhuvas	.. ..	48
Jenmies	.. ..	3
Planters	.. ..	nil
Total	..	336

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: May I know whether the Government is now in a position to say what is the capacity of each of the compartments, whether the Government realise that it is somewhere not fully 6′×6′? I made a statement on a previous day that it was difficult to enter into these compartments.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I cannot say what exactly the measurement of each compartment is.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: The measurement comes to $5\frac{3}{8}' \times 6'$. Is it sufficient to keep the boxes and for a person to enter and vote?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: It is more than sufficient and is even too much.

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